



Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Proposed Amendments to the Greensboro Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan

For Public Review

September 1, 2006
Thru
October 2, 2006

LEAD PLANNING AGENCY:

City of Greensboro Department of Transportation
PO Box 3136

Greensboro, North Carolina 27402-3136

Email: guampo@greensboro-nc.gov / Phone: 336-373-4368 / Fax: 336-412-6171

Introduction

The Greensboro Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan is the official map identifying freeways, and major and minor thoroughfares in the Greensboro Urban Area. The Thoroughfare Plan as well as the Greensboro Urban Area covers most of Guilford County with the exception of Burlington, Gibsonville, Whitsett, High Point, and Jamestown areas.

Freeways are controlled access facilities that serve as facilities for heavy volumes of traffic within and through an urban area such as interstate and intrastate routes with access provide by interchanges. Major thoroughfares typically originate outside, travel through and terminate outside of the urban area connecting cities, towns, and communities while providing limited access to adjoining properties and supplementing the freeway system. Minor thoroughfares typically originate and terminate within the urban area, connecting communities within while providing access to adjoining properties and supplementing the freeway and major thoroughfare systems.

The Thoroughfare Plan is used by land use planners in implementing ordinances that serve area residents, businesses and motorists by:

- Preventing new construction from being built too close to existing freeways and thoroughfares;
- Preventing new developments from being built in the path of identified future freeways and thoroughfares;
- Controlling the number of future access points along thoroughfares; and
- Obtaining or protecting needed right-of-way identified by the MPO.

The current Thoroughfare Plan was adopted by the Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on October 27, 2004 and by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on December 2, 2004. Since December 2004 the Thoroughfare Plan was amended in July 2005.

The Thoroughfare Plan Amendment development process includes the following steps:

- **MPO identified revisions:** MPO staff along with members of the MPO's Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) developed a preliminary list of amendments.
- **Initial approval:** On August 23, 2006 the MPO Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed list of revisions developed by MPO staff and agreed to the list being released for public comment.
- **Draft Thoroughfare Plan Amendments:** The draft 2006 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment document is available for public review and comment from September 1 to October 2, 2006. Apart from being posted on the MPO website, <http://www.guampo.org>, the document is also available at the offices of Guilford County Commissioners, Greensboro City Clerk, Greensboro DOT, Greensboro Transit Authority, NCDOT Division 7; and the NCA&TSU Library, UNC-G Library and all Greensboro Public Libraries. Please call the Greensboro Department of Transportation at (336) 373-4368 for more information.
- **Comments for consideration by the MPO:** Please submit all comments in writing by October 2, 2006 to:

Attn: Thoroughfare Plan Amendments
Greensboro DOT
PO Box 3136
Greensboro, NC 27402-3136
Fax: (336) 412-6171 Email: guampo@greensboro-nc.gov

- **Expected action following Public Comment period:** The MPO's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will be meeting on October 11, 2006 and will be presented with the final amendments along with all received public comments for approval.

About the MPO

The Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the officially designated body responsible for administering the transportation planning process required under Federal Law. The MPO plans for area surface transportation needs including highways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Priority goals of the MPO include:

- Promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of transportation systems;
- Serve the mobility needs of people and freight;
- Foster economic growth and development; and
- Minimize the negative effects of transportation impacts including air pollution.

The Greensboro metropolitan planning area includes most of Guilford County. The MPO serves the City of Greensboro, much of unincorporated Guilford County, and the Towns of Stokesdale, Summerfield, Oak Ridge, Pleasant Garden, and Sedalia. The Burlington, Gibsonville and Whitsett areas are served by the Burlington-Graham MPO, while the High Point and Jamestown areas are served by the High Point Urban Area MPO.

The City of Greensboro, Guilford County and the North Carolina Department of Transportation are member agencies of the Greensboro MPO and the Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT) is the Lead Planning Agency. The Transportation Advisory Committee is the Policy Board and is currently comprised of the following officials:

- Sandy Camany, TAC Chair, Greensboro City Council
- Keith A Holliday, Mayor, City of Greensboro
- J. Douglas Galyon, Board Member, NC Board of Transportation
- Kirk Perkins, Commissioner, Board of County Commissioners
- T. Dianne Bellamy-Small, Council Member, Greensboro City Council
- Mike Winstead, Commissioner, Board of County Commissioners
- Mike Barber, Council Member, Greensboro City Council

The Technical Coordinating Committee includes the following agencies: City of Greensboro DOT, NCDOT Division 7, Greensboro Transit Authority, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, City of Greensboro Planning Department, Guilford County Planning & Development and Community & Economic Development Departments, NCDOT Public Transit Division, PART, FHWA and the Piedmont Triad International Airport.

The staff of the Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, housed within the Greensboro Department of Transportation, may be reached by calling (336) 373-4184 or by emailing quampo@greensboro-nc.gov.

Background Information

Prompted by input from the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) as well as the City's eastside Mixed-Use Corporate Park initiative, a transportation feasibility study examined future routing for 1) an extension of Florida Street and improvements along McConnell Road east to I-40, and 2) an extension of Young's Mill Road to connect to Ward Road and continue up to US 70 (Wendover Avenue / Burlington Road).

The Florida Street Extension, improvement to McConnell Road and the Young's Mill Road extension are proposed to be four lane-divided with sidewalks and bicycle accommodations. The study included evaluation of future traffic needs/demands, preliminary environmental inventory data, right-of-way and construction cost estimates, stakeholder input, and recommendation for other area roadway improvements.

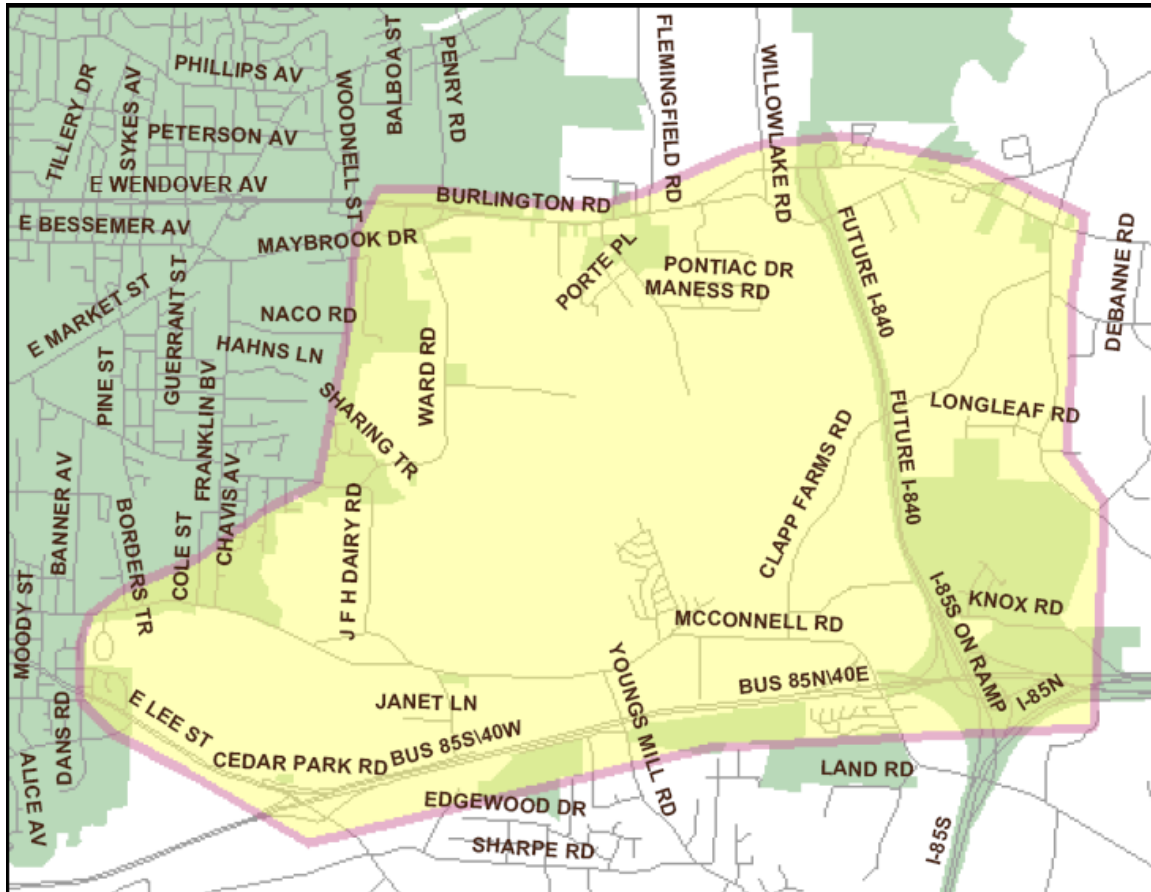
The study has changed some assumptions about the future routes these projects might take. The study identified cost issues, environmental problems and impacts to NCA&T property with the current Florida Street Extension. The study went on to identify future alignments and improvements that will be beneficial to the area while providing future project cost savings.

These amendments to the Thoroughfare Plan resulted from the aforementioned study and will be helpful in consideration of future transportation priorities, opportunities to facilitate economic development, and how east-side transportation improvements might be phased in over time.

How to Read the Amendments

The following area location is reflected in this 2006 Proposed Thoroughfare Plan Amendment:

- From Lee Street / I-40 north to US 70 (Wendover Avenue / Burlington Road) and from the City's eastern corporate limits east to Mt. Hope Church Road.



How to Read the Amendments

Proposed Thoroughfare Amendment Map

The attached map depicts the locations of the Proposed Thoroughfare Plan Amendments. The map key identifies the location of the proposed revisions and references to the revision description that follows.

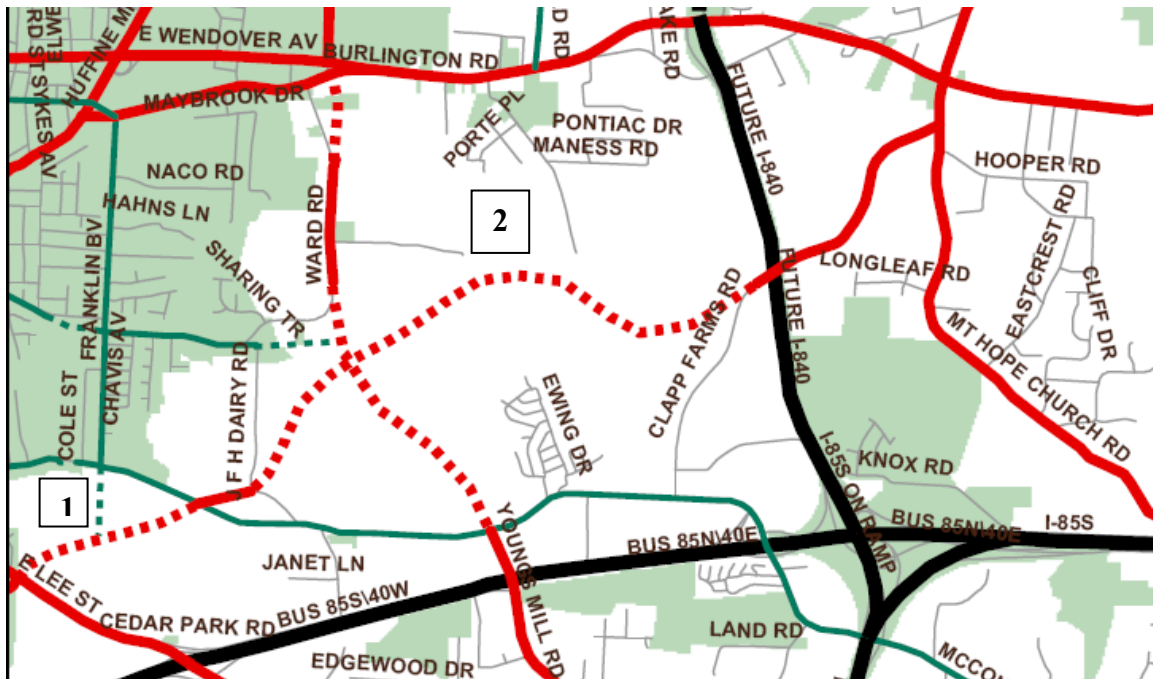
Revision Description

The Revision Description provides the descriptions of the proposed amendments and the action to take place is identified as an addition, removal or change.

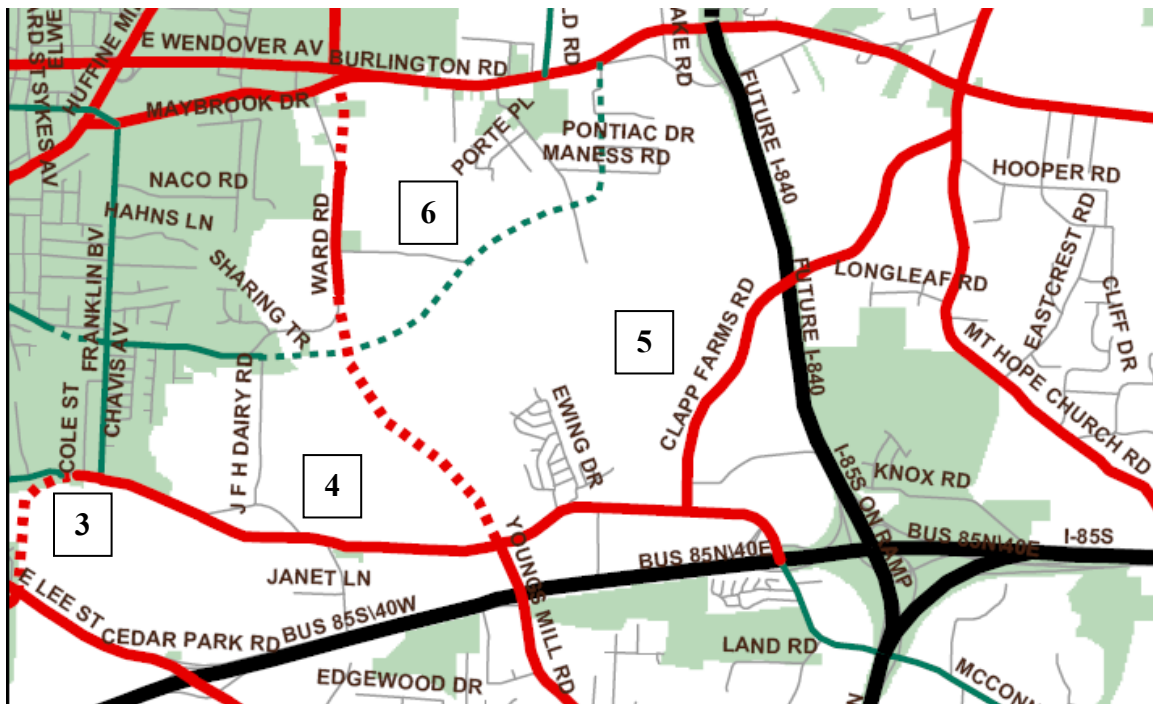
Proposed Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Exhibits

- Each exhibit lists the actions that are proposed.
- A map of the area with the revisions highlighted and numbered if more than one action is proposed for an area.
- The freeways and thoroughfares are color coded on the maps.
 - Freeways are thick black lines with right-of ways needs greater than 100 feet in width;
 - Major thoroughfares are red with typical right-of-ways needs of 100 feet in width; and
 - Minor thoroughfares are green with typical right-of-ways needs of 80 feet in width.
- Existing freeways and thoroughfare alignments are shown as solid lines while proposed alignments are broken lines and each according to their color classification designation.
- A description of the purpose and need are given for the proposed changes.
- The descriptions and maps are preliminary and subject to change following the public review period.

Proposed Amendments



1. Remove proposed Franklin Boulevard Extension.
2. Remove current proposed Florida Street Extension from NC 6 (Lee Street) to Clapp Farms Road.



3. Add Proposed Florida Street Extension from NC 6 (Lee Street) to McConnell Road.
4. Re-classify McConnell Road from Minor Thoroughfare to Major Thoroughfare west of Franklin Boulevard to I-40.
5. Classify Clapp Farms Road to Major Thoroughfare from McConnell Road to west of Future I-840.
6. Extend proposed Holts Chapel Road from Youngs Mill Extension to US 70 (Wendover Ave. / Burlington Road).